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Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Robert W. Swanson, Director

Grand Rapids Receives Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” Designation

October 12, 2006 – Robert W. Swanson, director of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG), recently announced that Grand Rapids has been selected as a Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” designee.

The Catalyst project will convert an industrial building into –the Hubb- a 60,000 sq. ft. commercial center offering space to internet dependant companies.

The Cool Cities Program is part of Governor Jennifer M. Granholm’s economic plan to help revitalize Michigan’s cities by retaining and attracting the jobs and people critical to the emerging economies of the 21st century. The program is funded by redirecting existing resources in state government.

This year, sixteen projects have received the Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” designation and priority access to “tool box” items. Twelve of the 16 will also receive the catalyst grant of \$100,000. The 12 projects receiving the Cool Cities “Neighborhoods in Progress” and catalyst grant are located in Benton Harbor, Detroit (3), Flint, Grand Rapids, Howell, Ionia, Lansing, Mount Clemens, Muskegon, and Pontiac. The four projects that received the Cool Cities designation and priority access to state resources, without the \$100,000 catalyst funding are: Adrian, Cadillac, Dearborn and Saginaw.

“We had the funding available for 12 Neighborhoods in Progress, however we received 16 outstanding for proposals. As a result, we opted to add Adrian, Dearborn, Cadillac, and Saginaw projects as Cool Cities designees to assist their projects with the resources we have available including priority access and technical assistance,” said Department of Labor & Economic Growth Director Robert W. Swanson. “We’ve learned from past Cool Cities projects that just the designation alone gives them an opportunity to leverage significant investment into their communities.”



Department of Labor & Economic Growth director Robert W. Swanson (left) presents a sign in Grand Rapids on July 20 to Horace Demmink (second from left), Reubin Richardson (center) and David Allen (right) designating Grand Rapids as a Cool Cities Neighborhoods in Progress.



Pictured left to right: 1st row: Jimmie Taylor, Noelain Sanclair VanDyke, Kimberly VanDyk holding Rosabella Sanclair VanDyk, Robert W. Swanson, Sarah Smith, Gert Hobson, Trenton Hobson and Reubin Richardson; 2nd row: Richard Ortega, Jamar Chavis, Bradford Mathis, Horace Demmink, David Allen, Olivia Destrades Mendoza and Ana Aguilar